

Tom - I write this about the time I go out  
of high school (1947). Maybe you'd like to show  
it to Kim and Sharon.  
I feel to state some of the reasons why I cannot

be a practicing Mormon in full fellowship:

1) The Church is out of sympathy with people whose views on social and political questions might be described as "liberal".....Said my friend, "I've never met a Mormon who was pro-labor."

2) The economic views its leaders espouse -- views contrary to the traditional cooperative spirit of the Mormon people -- awards the bread of the world to him who can get it ;

3) While paying lip-service to knowledge and "truth" its hierarchy has consciously and aggressively been obscurantist in thought and act ;

4) The Church has been so busy proving to itself that it has all truth that it has entirely neglected the life-illuminating insights of most secular poets, prophets, students ;

5) By a subtle endorsement, unconsciously given, its leaders (who are for the most part successful businessmen ) underwrite the proposition that man can serve two masters..... on going to the market-place too often its adherents leave their Christian principles at home ;

6) The Church places its whole emphasis on "obeying commandments" -- commandments which are superimposed over all other experience and learning ; and correspondingly it has neglected the paramount truth that man's first duty is ~~is~~ to be true to himself.....for after all, men should find in the prosecution of their daily tasks fulfillment and not frustration of their human natures ;

7) Its followers have erected a "health code" into a super-religion which itself overrides whatever real content the worship and religious activities of the Church have: anticipated outward behavior has obscured the vital inner man; the letter has killed the spirit ;

8) Its absorption in "personal religion" -- which at times is much too personal -- borders on irreligion ;

9) The believers view themselves self-righteously, and society complacently ; their obsession with personal piety too often is a form of social impiety ;

10) Fellowship is made difficult because too many ~~are~~ <sup>simultaneously</sup> members find it easy to be/devout Mormons and devout anti-Semites, lovers of their fellowmen in public and Negrophobes in private ;

11) It is a dangerous half-truth to say, as the Church has said, that if we change the individual we will of necessity change the social order -- more dangerous yet when its companion half-truth is forgotten and unspoken ;

12) In their preoccupation with a future life its worshipers adopt attitudes of unconcern, and policies of inaction, which are insensitive to the press of the present ;

13) The Church has recoiled so far from traditional religion that it has created, in its services, an esthetic wasteland, and has allowed the true mystical impulses to go unfed ;

14) There is only a place in its rooms for the orthodox : the sensitive conscience which would avoid hypocrisy must choose between 100% regularity and 100% non-participation ;

All this is said respectfully, in the realization that the Church contains much that is good, true, and beautiful ..... and that it fills a felt need for most of its adherents. I nevertheless feel that I cannot enter into full communion with the church, indeed cannot commune with it at all in good conscience, as long as these attitudes, ideas and principles -- and the men who further them -- dominate the Church .

Stewart Udall  
1947